



Literacy Activities of Missouri Public Libraries

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Missouri State Library
A division of the
Coordinating Board for Higher Education

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, much attention is being devoted to the problem of illiteracy in our country. Facts about literacy and predictions regarding the growth of illiteracy abound. Concurrently, the terms literacy and illiteracy are being defined and redefined by those whose interests vary from intergenerational to workplace literacy.

According to recent statistics, 25-27 million Americans cannot read the poison warning on a can of pesticide; 35 million are marginally or functionally illiterate. This totals about one-fourth of our population. Of this figure, the largest number are white, native-born Americans, although the combined percentages of black and Hispanic adults are greater than the percentage of white adults. Fifty percent of heads of households, who are classified below the poverty line by federal standards, cannot read at the 8th grade level.

The U.S. Department of Education has indicated that almost one million students drop out of high school yearly, and only a small percentage of high school graduates have the reading, writing and reasoning skills needed to function optimally in society. This condition has made it necessary for 80 percent, or more, of our post-secondary schools to provide remedial courses in basic skills for incoming freshmen in order for them to function better in regular college courses. Likewise, indus-

tries are offering employees remedial courses in reading, writing and computing. Predictions are that between now and the year 2000, more than three-fourths of those who will enter our nation's workforce will have limited verbal and writing skills.

As staggering as the above statistics may be, it is encouraging to note that for decades libraries have sensed their role as active participants in the national emphasis on literacy. Many libraries, especially public libraries, are re-examining their levels of involvement in literacy activities.

The public library is becoming increasingly aware of the effect of illiteracy on the social and economic fabric of the nation. The problem of illiteracy is a motivating force which is creating the need for every library to become involved in some form of literacy activity. As a result, libraries are beginning to extend services beyond the traditional library literacy services. For some libraries, this may mean initiating a literacy program. For others, it may be to improve that service which is already offered for non-readers. The form or level of literacy service should be commensurate with the size of the library and the specific needs of the community.

Those public libraries currently uninvolved must realize that illiteracy won't be acted on if it is not seen, recognized or admitted, so libraries must



Madeline Matson photo

become perceptive to indicators of the level of literacy in their communities. In other words, move beyond the denial stage. Once the problem is identified, create literacy activities within the context of community service. Those public libraries now offering a variety of literacy programs or activities on a support basis would do well to reevaluate the extent of their involvement and whether this involvement can be improved, expanded or extended.

Increased literacy education involvement on the part of libraries in the State of Missouri is an important need. Figures indicating that 1,200,000 or more Missourians aged 16 and above are out of school and without high school credentials strongly suggests the need. Public libraries in this state can accept the

challenge of becoming involved or continuing their involvement in the provision of literacy services.

The ensuing report suggests some directions Missouri public libraries might take as options in their commitment to improved literacy for Missourians. The survey findings point to areas of greatest need. Public libraries should and must greet the challenge as an opportunity to reduce the impact that illiteracy is having on our nation, state and local communities.

Beatrice Moore Smith-Talley
VISTA Literacy Volunteer

Madeline Matson
Supervisor

March 1990

Literacy Facts

- The United States ranks 49th among 156 countries in literacy, a drop of 18 places since 1950. The illiteracy rate in the United States is three times as high as that of the Soviet Union and five times that of Cuba.

- An estimated 25-27 million adults in the United States are functionally illiterate, meaning that their reading, writing and computing skills are below the 6th-grade level. An additional 45 million adults are marginally literate with only minimal reading, writing and computing skills which measure at or below the 9th-grade level.

- Sixty-five percent of all prisoners can't read. The cost of maintaining a prisoner for one year is greater than tuition at Harvard.

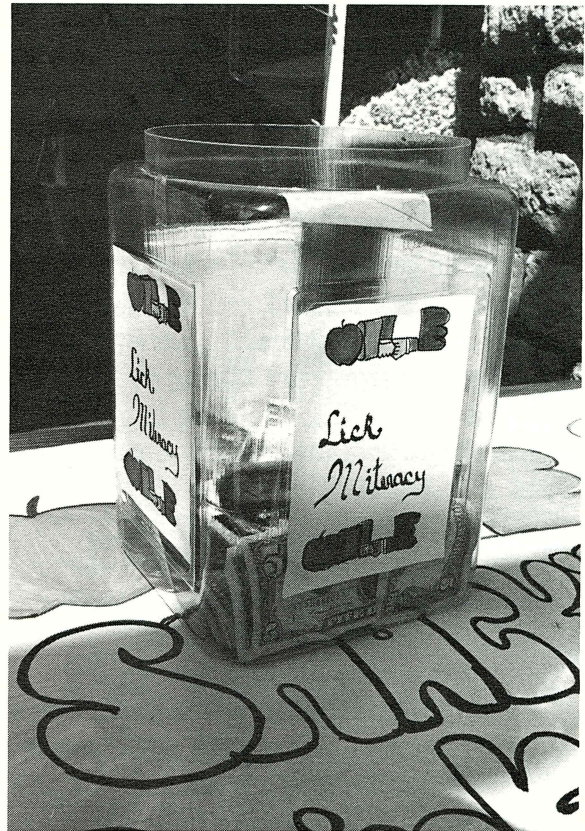
- The number of adult illiterates increases by 1.2 million each year, largely due to the high number of high school dropouts.

- American businesses each year hire a million entry-level workers who can't read, write or count.

- Almost 85 percent of today's jobs require at least three years of high school. By the end of this century, for the first time in history, most new jobs will require some college education.

- The estimated yearly cost of illiteracy due to nonproductivity, crime and loss of tax revenue is \$225 billion.

- An estimated 365,000 adults in Missouri are considered illiterate or



Robert Voss photo

functionally illiterate. Missouri also has a high school dropout rate of 25 percent.

- In Missouri, each illiterate adult may cost \$7,000 per year in lost taxes, job incompetence and remedial education.

- One out of 10 drivers on the highway cannot read road signs.

- Forty percent of Americans say they have never read a book.

- All of the adult literacy programs in the country together reach only four percent of illiterates.

Adult Illiteracy in Missouri

The table below shows the percentage of adults in each county who have "illiteracy problems." The "Rank" column indicates how counties compare with one another. A low ranking indicates a larger problem.

County	%	Rank	County	%	Rank	County	%	Rank
Adair	8.1	108	Grundy	11.2	85	Pemiscot	19.6	1
Andrew	10.0	100	Harrison	12.4	70	Perry	17.1	10
Atchison	10.1	97	Henry	12.8	65	Pettis	11.3	83
Audrain	11.9	76	Hickory	14.6	35	Phelps	10.1	99
Barry	12.9	62	Holt	11.3	81	Pike	13.2	53
Barton	12.8	63	Howard	13.0	55	Platte	4.5	116
Bates	13.2	51	Howell	14.3	38	Polk	11.8	78
Benton	15.8	19	Iron	15.4	26	Pulaski	9.1	105
Bollinger	18.0	6	Jackson	5.9	114	Putnam	14.9	29
Boone	4.7	115	Jasper	10.4	93	Ralls	12.0	75
Buchanan	10.4	94	Jefferson	10.3	96	Randolph	11.0	89
Butler	15.4	25	Johnson	6.5	113	Ray	11.1	88
Caldwell	12.1	74	Kansas City	9.6	101	Reynolds	16.9	12
Callaway	10.9	90	Knox	12.8	64	Ripley	18.9	3
Camden	11.5	80	Laclede	13.0	58	St. Charles	7.4	111
Cape Girardeau	9.5	103	Lafayette	11.9	77	St. Clair	15.1	28
Carroll	12.9	60	Lawrence	12.6	68	St. Francois	13.2	50
Carter	16.1	15	Lewis	10.7	92	St. Louis City	17.6	7
Cass	8.2	107	Lincoln	13.8	40	St. Louis Co.	7.9	109
Cedar	14.8	31	Linn	12.1	72	Ste. Genevieve	14.5	37
Chariton	13.4	44	Livingston	11.3	82	Saline	13.3	45
Christian	10.1	98	Macon	13.5	42	Schuyler	13.0	56
Clark	12.3	71	Madison	17.4	9	Scotland	13.3	46
Clay	9.2	104	Maries	16.4	14	Scott	13.9	39
Clinton	9.6	102	Marion	11.2	84	Shannon	15.9	18
Cole	8.5	106	McDonald	13.2	52	Shelby	12.6	67
Cooper	12.1	73	Mercer	13.2	48	Stoddard	16.1	16
Crawford	15.3	27	Miller	13.5	41	Stone	11.6	79
Dade	13.4	43	Mississippi	18.1	5	Sullivan	14.5	36
Dallas	14.7	33	Moniteau	13.1	54	Taney	10.7	91
Daviess	13.0	57	Monroe	12.5	69	Texas	14.6	34
DeKalb	11.2	87	Montgomery	14.8	32	Vernon	11.2	86
Dent	15.9	17	Morgan	14.8	30	Warren	13.2	47
Douglas	15.5	23	New Madrid	18.1	4	Washington	17.5	8
Dunklin	17.1	11	Newton	10.3	95	Wayne	19.3	2
Franklin	13.2	49	Nodaway	7.8	110	Webster	13.0	59
Gasconade	16.7	13	Oregon	15.8	21	Worth	12.9	61
Gentry	12.8	66	Osage	15.7	22	Wright	15.8	20
Greene	7.4	112	Ozark	15.4	24	Missouri	10.9	

SOURCE: University of Missouri Office of Social & Economic Data Analysis, 1988.

The Public Library Literacy Survey in Missouri

During August and September 1989, the Missouri State Library conducted a statewide survey to assess the involvement of Missouri's public libraries in literacy programs. This survey consisted of a questionnaire designed to facilitate quick response. The State Library sought five basic kinds of data from the public libraries.

The simple data-gathering instrument asked 1) whether the library had a literacy program, 2) if yes, the type of program offered, 3) the kinds of materials on hand for adult new readers, and 4) how the library promoted the use of adult new reader materials. Finally, there was a request for a brief statement describing the extent of the library's literacy program.

This report includes, as its major content, the information garnered from 132 public libraries in response to our survey. The figures presented herein have been drawn from each of the four questions appearing on the questionnaire. A few recommendations are included as well as a profile of all reporting libraries and a classification of literacy activities.

For the benefit of clarification, our questionnaire was reduced to its simplest form for the following reasons:

1. to encourage quick response
2. to get ready answers to four main questions

3. to open communication with public libraries regarding literacy programs

4. to pave the way for literacy networking

In reviewing the literature on similar surveys of public libraries, we found that Missouri's public libraries are near the norm regarding literacy activities. Most states have joined the efforts to address the national problem of illiteracy and in many states, public libraries are fine-tuned to this national focus. So, too, have the State of Missouri's public libraries upgraded their sensitivities to the problem. This indicates that our state is moving in a positive direction.

Our survey reflects, as did other state surveys, that involvement in literacy activities among the Missouri public libraries falls under several categories: providers of literacy materials--print, audiovisual, software--and compilations of bibliographic aids; providers of literacy instruction (on a very limited basis) such as tutor training and participation in student recruitment and development; and providers of literacy support services--referrals, space and/or materials for tutors, and maintenance of information for literacy agencies or other literacy providers.

Library involvement in literacy provision varies greatly in Missouri from none to sophisticated, computer-based



training programs. These extremes reveal much regarding the population, education and socio-economic conditions surrounding the public library, as well as the library's funding, staff size, community demand and the interest and enthusiasm of the local library director and his/her board.

Some directors believe their libraries should play an active role in the provision of literacy services. Others see their role only as providers of literacy materials. This service limitation is common in cases where the library is small, understaffed and underfunded (obviously, many Missouri public libraries fit all three characteristics). Yet a number of small libraries are sensing an increased demand in their communities for greater

involvement in literacy activities and are contemplating moves in that direction.

Many survey respondents added notes to the questionnaire requesting additional information. Each request was honored. Uninvolved libraries were encouraged to consider some form of involvement commensurate with local needs.

Readers should understand that the term "*Literacy Program*," for this purpose, has been defined quite broadly. It includes all libraries that indicated, through their responses, an effort to do something for the improvement of literacy. The efforts cover a wide spectrum of activities and degree of involvement, as perceived by the reporting individual.

Report on the Literacy Involvement of Missouri Public Libraries by Questionnaire Responses Returned

Questionnaires mailed 160
Replies received 132

Answers:
None 77
Variety* 55

Summary of responses:

Question 1 - Does your library presently have a literacy program?

Answers:
Yes 63 (48%)
No 69 (52%)

Question 2 - If yes, what type of program is it?

Answers:
Provider of space
and/or materials 59
Cooperative supporter of literacy
service agencies 10
Laubach program 7
Tutor training 5
Tutoring service 6
Other* 11

*Includes a variety of services such as computer-based learning, referral services, and volunteer recruitment programs.

Question 3 - What kinds of materials do you have for adult new readers?

*Indicates materials ranging from Laubach readers and high/low fiction and nonfiction to flashcards, games, tapes and software.

Question 4 - What method(s) do you use for promoting the use of these materials?

Answers:
Media (newspapers, radio,
television) 5
Newsletters/flyers 2
Literacy organizations/
other groups 5
Word-of-mouth publicity 2
Didn't answer 52



1990 has been designated International Literacy Year by the United Nations General Assembly. The logo for ILY was created by Kohichi Imakita.

Profile of Reports from Public Libraries

Adair County Public Library - Kirksville

Received a \$25,000 LSCA Title VI literacy grant in 1987-88. Hired coordinator, developed non-reader collection, and purchased low-level reading materials.

Albany Carnegie Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Appleton City Public Library

Has no literacy program. Has fiction and nonfiction books and magazines for adult new readers.

Atchison County Library - Rock Port

Has no literacy program.

Barry-Lawrence Regional Library - Monett

Provides materials to support literacy activities in the area. Uses material already in collection or through inter-library loan.

Bethany Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Bollinger County Library - Marble Hill

Has no literacy program.

Bonne Terre Memorial Library

Has no literacy program.

Boonslick Regional Library - Sedalia

Recently received LSCA Title I grant

and purchased high/low books for adult new readers.

Bowling Green Public Library

Has no literacy program. First tax for library services voted in June 1989. May start a literacy program later.

Brentwood Public Library

Provides literacy materials and space. Promotes these services through news media and community organizations.

Brookfield Carnegie Library

Has no literacy program. Plans to offer a program within the next year.

Cameron Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Canton Public Library

Library has purchased materials and has a group of volunteer tutors; no students yet.

Cape Girardeau Public Library

Library recruits volunteers, provides tutoring space, has varied collection of materials for reading, writing and math skills. Does extensive program promotion.

Caruthersville Public Library

Received an LSCA Title I grant in 1989 to continue a Laubach program. Has 28 tutors, eight new students, and uses an

annex adjacent to the library. Librarian is acquiring more adult new reader materials. Promotes extensively in several media and hopes to expand program throughout county. Received \$600 from Episcopal church.

Carrollton Public Library

Basement is used for literacy program sponsored by another organization.

Carter County Library District - Van Buren

Has no literacy program.

Carthage Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Cass County Public Library - Harrisonville

Has no literacy program.

Chaffee Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Christian County Library - Ozark

Has TV, VCR, videos, 40 sets of laminated subject-oriented flash cards and 300 adult easy-reading books from Laubach and Literacy Volunteers of America. Program funded through LSCA Title I. Advertises extensively via print media and word of mouth. Has no on-site staffing. The only public interest is from those with interest in tutoring. Those who need the service have not yet used the center, according to the director.

Clarence Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Clarksville Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Crane Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Crystal City Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Dallas County Library - Buffalo

Works with Ozark Area Community Action Corporation in providing tutors and materials. Part of the tutor training was held in the library. Furnishes materials at tutor's request. Uses beginning and youth easy readers for adult new readers.

Daniel Boone Regional Library - Columbia

Provides space, support materials and publicity for programs at Columbia Public Library and Callaway County Public Library. Has books, cassettes, videos, computers and software. Some LSCA Title I funding. Cooperates with regional tutoring agencies.

Daviess County Library - Gallatin

Has small collection of Laubach materials.

DeKalb County Library - Maysville

Has no literacy program.

Desloge Public Library

Has no literacy program.

DeSoto Public Library

Works in cooperation with Jefferson College. Volunteers and students provided with library materials and space. College trains volunteer tutors.

Dexter Public Library

Has a program with Altrusa Club's literacy project. Altrusa Club uses library books and facilities for its classes.

Doniphan Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Douglas County Public Library - Ava

Has no literacy program. The literacy program in Ava is sponsored by the Douglas County Retired Teachers Association.

Dulany Memorial Library - Salisbury

Has no literacy program.

Dunklin County Library - Kennett

Has no literacy program.

Elsberry Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Elvins Public Library

Has no literacy program. Knows no one in the area who needs adult new reader materials, according to librarian.

Farmington Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Fayette Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Ferguson Municipal Public Library

Received LSCA Title I grant for literacy materials. Serves as a referral agent; provides space and materials for tutors and new readers.

Festus Public Library

Volunteer tutors use materials from library's general collection.

Flat River Public Library

Library provides space for tutors and students from local literacy program. Hopes to offer additional study areas in the future.

Forsyth Library

Serves as a contact point for entire Taney County area. Has 53 volunteers but only one student.

Gentry County Library - Stanberry

Has no literacy program.

Glasgow Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Grundy County-Jewett Norris Library - Trenton

LSCA Title I funds acquisition of material and equipment for local program.

Hannibal Free Public Library

Library provides space for volunteer literacy tutors. The area vocational

technical school has a literacy program.

Henry County Library - Clinton

Recently received a \$20,000 LSCA Title VI literacy grant. Started program in October 1989 using Laubach method.

Holden Public Library

Trails Regional Library makes referrals to tutors in the Holden area. Holden Library offers high-interest/easy-to-read books for new readers.

Jackson Public Library

Has no literacy program. Expressed need for one.

James Memorial Library - St. James

Has no literacy program. Several high/low books were donated by Meramac Literacy Council.

Joplin Public Library

Has about 100 books and other materials for adult new readers.

Kansas City Public Library

Library has circulating print and non-print materials for adult new readers and learning materials in electronic format. Kansas City Public Library is a resource for literacy agencies and a facilitator among area providers of literacy services. (Seventeen agencies provide tutoring at 90 sites.) The library cooperates in promoting awareness of the illiteracy problem in the Kansas City area -- an estimated 30,000 people.

Kinderhook Regional Library - Lebanon

Acts as a referral agent for literacy programs and furnishes space for classes. Purchases materials appropriate for readers in the programs.

Kirkwood Public Library

Provides space for classes and materials for both students and tutors. Promotes through newspapers and tutors.

LaPlata Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Lilbourne Memorial Library

Has no literacy program.

Little Dixie Regional Libraries - Moberly

Has no literacy program. Moberly Area Junior college has a program that Little Dixie would be duplicating. Libraries make referrals to the junior college.

Livingston County Library - Chillicothe

Library provides space for RSVP literacy program.

Lockwood Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Louisiana Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Macon Public Library

Received LSCA Title I grant to support literacy program reading and instruction room. Has set of books from New Reader's Press.

Maplewood Public Library

Provides materials for students and tutors. Has fiction and nonfiction on all levels up to GED studies.

Marceline Carnegie Library

Has no literacy program.

Marshall Public Library

New public library opened in January 1990.

Maryville Public Library

Provides some youth high/low materials.

McDonald County Library - Pineville

Has no literacy program.

Mercer County Library - Princeton

Has no literacy program. Very interested, but has little money and no staff for program. Will consider involvement at a later date.

Mexico-Audrain County Library

Has had literacy program since 1984. LSCA Title VI funds provide materials and space, train tutors and advertise service. Has Laubach reading materials, learning games, cassette tapes, high/low books.

Mid-Continent Public Library - Independence

Extensive collections of high-interest/low-vocabulary materials in the 13 branch libraries. Local tutors and students use materials and the facilities for classes.

Mississippi County Library - Charleston

Has no literacy program. Considering writing a grant for literacy materials and using volunteers to start a program. Mississippi County has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the state.

Monroe City Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Montgomery City Public Library

Has no literacy program. Local literacy program handled through the school system.

Morgan County Library - Versailles

Has no literacy program.

Mound City Public Library

Has no literacy program.

New Madrid County Library - Portageville

Has no literacy program.

Nevada Public Library

Has adult new reader books and literacy software programs. Publicizes these materials, and works with Literacy Volunteers of America in providing site and materials for tutors' use.

Norborne Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Northeast Missouri Library Service - Kahoka

Has Laubach tutor on library staff as well as Laubach material and high/low books.

North Kansas City Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Oran Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Oregon County Public Library - Thayer

Has no literacy program. "No calls" for adult new reader materials, according to the director.

Ozark Regional Library - Ironton

Has high-interest/low-vocabulary books. Will provide some easy-to-read books for those with reading problems.

Pack Memorial Library - Mountain View

Has no literacy program.

Palmyra Bicentennial Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Piedmont Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Poplar Bluff Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Powell Memorial Library - Troy

Works with local literacy council. Laubach method used; 11 tutors and 15 students.

Price James Library - Tipton

Has no literacy program.

Putnam County Public Library - Unionville

Has no literacy program. Has some Jamestown readers for 4th-grade level.

Ray County Library - Richmond

Has high/low books for adult new readers.

Reynolds County Library - Centerville

Has a Learn-to-Read Center and three "reading workshop" cassettes. Librarian says area needs adult reading program.

Rich Hill Memorial Library

Has no literacy program.

Richmond Heights Memorial Library

Has a special section of 300-400 books of fiction/nonfiction, including tutor materials, for adult new readers. Six tutors work with adult students in the library. Advertises materials through its newsletter.

Riverside Regional Library - Jackson

Has no literacy program.

Rock Hill Public Library

Was part of an LSCA Title I program with nine municipal libraries in St. Louis County. Has new reader fiction, nonfiction and basic education books. Library provides space for tutors and students.

Rolla Free Public Library

Friends of Library serve as tutors. Library makes space and reading materials available.

Salem Public Library

Has 25 books donated by Literacy Council of Meramac Regional Planning Commission.

Scenic Regional Library - Union

Has no literacy program.

Scotland County Public Library - Memphis

Has no literacy program. Board has discussed program as a possibility.

Sedalia Public Library

Received an LSCA Title I grant to establish a literacy program. Has a collection of books - Laubach series. Will have adult education classes plus space for individual tutoring.

Seymour Public Library

Local tutors use a library study room. Library hopes to start a literacy program soon.

Shelbina Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Sikeston Public Library

Library provides space for tutors and students; cooperates with local ABE program and ALTRUSA Club in their literacy efforts. Owns variety of study materials for new readers.

Slater Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Southwest Regional Library - Bolivar

Has no literacy program.

Springfield-Greene County Library

Has mobile "literacy van," or teaching unit, that delivers literacy materials to community centers in 10 counties. Program offers training for volunteer tutors and individualized computer-assisted instruction using whole language approach. Has varied adult new reader collection.

St. Charles City-County Library

Has literacy program and is a member of an adult basic education group. Has high-interest/low-vocabulary materials and promotes them throughout service area. Program has served more than 2,000 residents in two years.

St. Clair County Library - Osceola

Furnishes a room for adult learners. Has phonics books, cassettes and easy readers for adults.

St. Louis County Library - Ladue

Provides reading and instructional materials and meeting rooms for teaching sessions. Has large collection of books and videocassettes for teachers and students. Does extensive promotion of program.

St. Louis Public Library

Offers a variety of literacy programs and materials. Serves as a contact point

for St. Louis Literacy Council and adult basic education programs in public schools. Promotes through social service agencies, adult basic education, churches and other organizations assisting adult learners. The program estimates 200-300 referrals per year and averages 50 persons per month who use facilities and materials.

Steele Public Library

Has no literacy program. Hopes to begin a program in the near future.

Stone County Library - Galena

Has no literacy program.

Sullivan Public Library

Has about 50 books for new readers, both fiction and nonfiction. Literacy program offered through local junior college.

Sweet Springs Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Taneyhills Community Library - Branson

Has no literacy program.

Texas County Library - Houston

Provides space for tutors and students; does referrals to literacy programs. Has automatic renewal of materials for new readers.

Thomas Jefferson Library System - Jefferson City

Basic literacy education for adults 16

and over offered through ABLE Learning Center. Has extensive collection of adult new reader materials in print and non-print formats from the major literacy publishers. Promotes center through displays, television, newspapers, booths, flyers and personal contacts. Center also provides tutor training, classrooms and continuing education for tutors. ABLE serves as a model for library literacy programs; its director has offered assistance to many independent literacy programs.

Town and Country Regional Library - Neosho

Has no literacy program.

Trails Regional Library - Warrensburg

Helped to develop local literacy coalition. A \$25,000 LSCA Title VI grant has enabled library to remodel some unused space into two tutor rooms and to purchase equipment, materials and books. Coalition has trained 58 tutors; more training sessions are scheduled.

University City Public Library

Provides space for 25 tutors and their students. Has approximately 350 books for adult new readers. Co-sponsored literacy workshop for librarians and literacy providers.

Valley Park Library

Has materials for adult new readers and for tutors.

Washington County Library - Potosi

Serves as contact agency. Has easy-reading textbooks and practical guides. Provides rooms and assistance for tutors.

Washington Public Library

Has a set of easy readers.

Webb City Public Library

Makes referrals to local adult basic education program. Has basic textbooks and easy reader series.

Webster Groves Public Library

Provides space for tutors and students

and has set up a new readers' section.

West Plains Public Library

Has no literacy program.

Willow Springs Public Library

Has some high/low readers; promotes materials through schools.

Winona Public Library

Has no literacy program.

**Worth County Library Association -
Grant City**

Has no literacy program.



Madeline Matson photo

Libraries Providing Some Form of Literacy Service

Adair County Public Library - Kirksville
Appleton City Public Library
Barry-Lawrence Regional Library -
 Monett
Boonslick Regional Library - Sedalia
Brentwood Public Library
Canton Public Library
Cape Girardeau Public Library
Caruthersville Public Library
Carrollton Public Library
Christian County Library - Ozark
Dallas County Library - Buffalo
Daniel Boone Regional Library - Colum-
 bia
Daviess County Library - Gallatin
DeSoto Public Library
Dexter Public Library
Ferguson Municipal Public Library
Festus Public Library
Flat River Public Library
Forsyth Library
Grundy County-Jewett Norris Library -
 Trenton
Hannibal Free Public Library
Henry County Library - Clinton
Holden Public Library
James Memorial Library - St. James
Joplin Public Library
Kansas City Public Library
Kinderhook Regional Library - Lebanon
Kirkwood Public Library
Livingston County Library - Chillicothe
Macon Public Library
Maplewood Public Library

Maryville Public Library
Mexico-Audrain County Library
Mid-Continent Public Library - Indepen-
 dence
Nevada Public Library
Northeast Missouri Library Service -
 Kahoka
Ozark Regional Library - Ironton
Powell Memorial Library - Troy
Ray County Library - Richmond
Reynolds County Library - Centerville
Richmond Heights Memorial Library
Rock Hill Public Library
Rolla Free Public Library
Salem Public Library
Sedalia Public Library
Seymour Public Library
Sikeston Public Library
Springfield-Greene County Library
St. Charles City-County Library
St. Clair County Library - Osceola
St. Louis County Library - Ladue
St. Louis Public Library
Sullivan Public Library
Texas County Library - Houston
Thomas Jefferson Library - Jefferson City
Trails Regional Library - Warrensburg
University City Public Library
Valley Park Library
Washington County Library - Potosi
Washington Public Library
Webb City Public Library
Webster Groves Public Library
Willow Springs Public Library

Libraries Having No Literacy Program

Albany Carnegie Public Library
Atchison County Library - Rock Port
Bethany Public Library
Bollinger County Library - Marble Hill
Bonne Terre Memorial Library
Bowling Green Public Library
Brookfield Carnegie Library
Cameron Public Library
Carter County Library District - Van
Buren
Carthage Public Library
Cass County Public Library - Harrison-
ville
Chaffee Public Library
Clarence Public Library
Clarksville Public Library
Crane Public Library
Crystal City Public Library
DeKalb County Library - Maysville
Desloge Public Library
Doniphan Public Library
Douglas County Public Library - Ava
Dulany Memorial Library - Salisbury
Dunklin County Library - Kennett
Elsberry Public Library
Elvins Public Library
Farmington Public Library
Fayette Public Library
Gentry County Library - Stanberry
Glasgow Public Library
Jackson Public Library
LaPlata Public Library
Lilbourne Memorial Library
Little Dixie Regional Libraries - Moberly
Lockwood Public Library
Louisiana Public Library
Marceline Carnegie Library
Marshall Public Library

McDonald County Library - Pineville
Mercer County Library - Princeton
Mississippi County Library - Charleston
Monroe City Public Library
Montgomery City Public Library
Morgan County Library - Versailles
Mound City Public Library
New Madrid County Library - Por-
tageville
Norborne Public Library
North Kansas City Public Library
Oregon County Public Library - Thayer
Oran Public Library
Pack Memorial Library - Mountain View
Palmyra Bicentennial Public Library
Piedmont Public Library
Poplar Bluff Public Library
Price James Library - Tipton
Putnam County Public Library - Union-
ville
Rich Hill Memorial Library
Riverside Regional Library - Jackson
Scenic Regional Library - Union
Scotland County Public Library - Mem-
phis
Shelbina Public Library
Slater Public Library
Southwest Regional Library - Bolivar
Steele Public Library
Stone County Library - Galena
Sweet Springs Public Library
Taneyhills Community Library - Branson
Town and Country Regional Library -
Neosho
West Plains Public Library
Winona Public Library
Worth County Library Association -
Grant City

General Recommendations for Missouri Public Libraries

That:

1. No Missouri public library would consider turning its back on the problem of illiteracy.

2. All Missouri public libraries become involved in some form of literacy activity in 1990.

3. Those libraries currently showing no interest in non-readers devise creative means to encourage citizens within their area to raise awareness of the illiteracy problem.

4. Libraries located in areas where illiteracy is highest join forces with community groups, organizations and agencies to bring about desired improvements in literacy.

5. Very small libraries, where staff, funds and hours are minimal, concentrate on literacy efforts befitting their specific set of circumstances.

6. Where no literacy programs exist, public libraries might spearhead the formation of literacy councils to explore, study and evaluate the local literacy needs with the ultimate goal of gener-

ating some action on their findings.

7. Libraries with weak or no programs cooperate with those libraries having older or strong literacy programs. Inter-library teamwork for programming is a workable possibility.

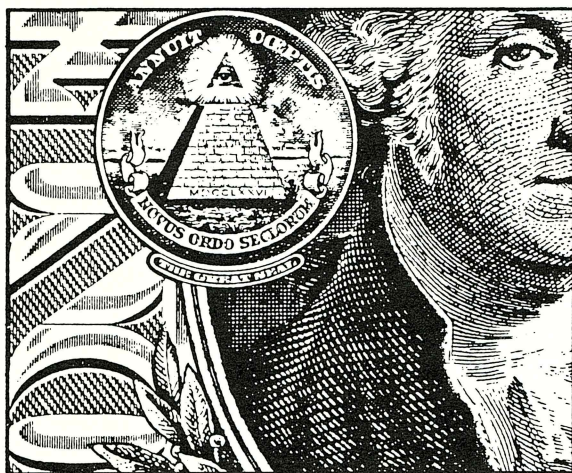
8. All public libraries acquire a basic core of books and/or materials specifically geared toward adults learning to read.

9. Libraries address the need for intergenerational literacy programs by acquiring family-oriented books and other reading materials to be used by fathers, mothers and primary caregivers with their children.

10. Libraries have available and recommend to workplace literacy programs, reading materials as well as other support materials in cooperation with businesses or business organizations.

11. Each public library become more aware of the funding available to libraries for literacy program development and support.

Funding for Library Literacy Programs



✓ Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds can be used for library literacy programs and other activities related to adult new readers. The State Library administers Titles I, II and III of the LSCA program in Missouri. Title I, which is earmarked for "library services," can be requested to develop, expand and promote a public library literacy program.

In the past two years, the State Library has awarded Title I literacy grants, totaling \$149,961, to 17 libraries throughout the state (includes a nine-member library cooperative). For the most part, libraries have used these funds to purchase materials and equipment. Some grant recipients have conducted workshops for regional literacy providers, purchased and equipped a van as a mobile teaching unit, trained literacy tutors and rented space for literacy classes.

The State Library places a high priority on funding public library literacy programs, and encourages libraries to consider applying for an LSCA grant. The State Library also offers consulting services on grant writing and literacy program development. For grant information, write to the LSCA Program Coordinator; for literacy program development, write to the VISTA Literacy Volunteer.

✓ LSCA Title VI grants are administered through the U.S. Department of Education. These are competitive grants, in amounts up to \$25,000, made to state and local public libraries for the purpose of supporting literacy programs. To obtain guidelines for the Title VI program, write to: U.S. Department of Education, Library Development Staff, Library Programs/OERI, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-5571. (Bill Davis and Madeline Matson of the Missouri State Library have served as grant evaluators for the Title VI program.)

✓ Literacy Investment for Tomorrow-Missouri (LIFT-Missouri), a not-for-profit corporation, supports literacy programs and provides funding for innovative literacy activities, especially those pertaining to the workforce. For more information, write: Diana Schmidt, Executive Director, LIFT-Missouri, 300 South Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102.

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